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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/600,871	06/20/2003	R. Glen Coleman	PD-170.02	6659
27581 7590 12/19/2006 MEDTRONIC, INC. 710 MEDTRONIC PARK MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55432-9924			EXAMINER CHENG, JACQUELINE	
			ART UNIT 3768	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		12/19/2006	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/600,871

Applicant(s)

COLEMAN, R. GLEN

Examiner

Jacqueline Cheng

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 May 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/6/05, 5/19/06
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments filed May 9, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that neither US Patent No. 4,562,900 (herein referred to as Anderson), US Patent No. 5,448,994 (herein referred to as Inuma), or US Patent No. 4,646,756 (herein referred to as Watmough) teaches "...an ultrasound emitting member having a plurality of individual ultrasound emitting elements spaced from one another, the ultrasound emitting elements being actuatable to emit ultrasound energy a predetermined distance outwardly from an active surface whereby the ultrasound energy is focused within tissue of the patient at separate and distinct locations for each individual ultrasound emitting element to form a lesion..." as required in claims 1-8 or "... an ultrasound emitting member comprising an active face adapted for positioning adjacent an area of tissue, the active face carrying one or more rows of spaced apart ultrasound transducer elements, the ultrasound transducer elements selectively independently actuatable to emit focused ultrasound energy focused a predetermined distance from the active face and focused at separate and distinct locations for each individual ultrasound transducer element ..." as required in claims 9-20. The examiner respectfully disagrees with the applicant. The examiner believes that Watmough discloses the individual elements focused at separate and distinct locations. Watmough discloses an ultrasound hyperthermia unit which includes an array of transducers that can be individually adjusted to take account the density and shape of the area to be treated. To allow for this, each of the transducers can be separately motor driven to a particular angle and target (col. 1 line 61-col. 2 line 8, col. 4 line 65-68). Since the

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transducers can be adjusted to take into account the shape of the area, then each of the ultrasound emitting elements is focused at a separate location in order to account for the shape, all the single elements' focus together create a larger general single focus. Despite the single larger focus, each element is still focused at a smaller distinct location. Therefore the examiner holds the previous rejection sent November 25, 2005, as restated below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3, 9-12, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,562,900) in view of Iinuma (U.S. Patent No. 5,448,994), and further in view of Watmough et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,646,756).

With regard to the rejected claims, Anderson et al. discloses an apparatus and method of providing a lightweight, single-piece tray of properly aligned transducer/lens elements for use in the usual treatment or diagnostic environment devices to simplify the procedures and improve the quality of treatment delivered to the patient. Figures 1 and 2 of Anderson et al. diagram the system. An array of transducers and lenses (ref. nos. 14 and 12, respectively) is positioned in a generally rectangular tray (ref. no. 10) to provide for the focused ultrasound heat treatment (col. 1, lines 11-13). With regard to Claims 1 and 9, Figures 1 and 2 of Anderson et al. diagram ultrasound emitting members (ref. nos. 14 and 12) spaced from one another along a row, such

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that ultrasound is emitted at a predetermined distance outwardly from an active surface. With respect to Claim 1, the Examiner interprets an active surface as the surface from which the ultrasound waves are emitted; accordingly, this surface is inherent in any ultrasound wave-propagating device. With respect to Claim 9, the active surface is interpreted as carrying one or more rows of spaced-apart ultrasound-emitting elements. Accordingly, the holding frame for housing the tray of the transducer/lens assembly as taught by Anderson et al. satisfies the active surface limitation of Applicant's Claim 9 (col. 1, lines 64-66).

With respect to Claims 2, 10 and 14, the transducer elements of Anderson et al. satisfy the piezoelectric elements of the applicant by emitting ultrasound energy in response to an electric current supplied. With respect to Claims 3 and 15, although Anderson et al. does not teach a curved transducer element, the transducer/lens assembly of Anderson et al. satisfies the function of providing a focused ultrasound treatment. Therefore, it would have been obvious to provide either the curved transducer element or the transducer/lens assembly because they are functional equivalents.

Regarding the claims generally, Anderson et al. does not explicitly recite a handle. More specifically to Claims 11 and 12, Anderson et al. does not disclose the power supply and the control unit, respectively. Furthermore, Anderson et al. does not teach selective actuation and de-actuation of the one or more transducer elements. It is inherent or in the alternative obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide for a handle such that maneuverability of the device is possible. A common definition of a handle is an appendage to an object such that the object can be moved or used. According to this definition, a handle is inherent or in the alternative obvious such that the lightweight single piece tray of

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transducer/lens elements can be moved or used to provide the appropriate ultrasound treatment to the tissue.

Further, it is inherent or in the alternative obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a power supply for generating an electric signal to actuate the elements, thereby emitting ultrasound, because a power supply is necessary for the functionality of the device. The treatment cannot be performed without the necessary power source. Iinuma teaches a system and method of ultrasound therapy comprising a control unit for selective actuation and de-actuation of the transducer elements to provide treatment to desired regions (col. 6, lines 28-37). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Iinuma with the teachings of Anderson et al., thus satisfying the Applicant's invention because it allows for better control of the therapy procedure to the desired area of the tissue as taught by Iinuma.

With respect to Claims 1 and 9, Anderson et al. does not explicitly teach that the ultrasound energy is focused at separate and distinct locations for each element. In the same field of endeavor, Watmough et al. discloses an ultrasound system having a plurality of individually controlled transducers each which may have distinct foci (col. 1, lines 61-68, col. 2, lines 1-8, col. 3, lines 45-53, col. 5, lines 37-51 and col. 7, lines 4-13). The Examiner particularly notes the teaching that a concave array or one or more convex transducers may be used to treat a target region. Further, although Watmough et al. discloses that the group of transducers are arranged such that they primarily heat a target region at a single focus *depth*, in order to heat a target such as is shown in Fig. 3, the hexagonally arranged transducers would have separate foci covering the area of the target. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary

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skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used the multi-foci apparatus of Watmough et al. in a hand-held ultrasound device in order to deliver ultrasound to a target region in a patient in a specific pattern of locations within the body at the same time.

4. Claims 4, 6-8, 13, 16 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson et al. in view of Iinuma, and further in view of Watmough et al. as applied to Claims 1 and 9 above, and further in view of Castel (U.S. Patent No. 5,413,550).

Anderson et al. in view of Iinuma and Watmough et al. discloses the claimed invention as discussed above except for the specifics of the handle of the ultrasound therapeutic device. Figure 2 of Castel diagrams the specifics of the handle as disclosed in Applicant's claims. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the present invention via the combination of the hand-held ultrasonic applicator with the control features of Castel because the graspable handle with control switches or buttons allows for quicker and thus better control of the therapeutic procedure, which is a well known expedient in the art.

5. Claims 5 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson et al. in view of Iinuma, and further in view of Watmough et al. as applied to Claims 1 and 9 above, and further in view of Weng et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,626,855).

Anderson et al. in view of Iinuma and Watmough et al. teaches the present claimed invention as discussed above except for the malleability of the handle shaft of the ultrasound therapeutic device. Figure 3C of Weng et al. diagrams the flexible portion (ref. no. 31) of the

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handle shaft. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the present invention via the combination of the held-held ultrasonic applicator with the flexible handle shaft of Weng et al. because the flexibility or malleability of the handle shaft allows for better maneuverability of the device to different regions of interest as taught by Weng et al. (see col. 10, lines 43-49).

6. Claims 21-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson et al. in view of Castel, and further in view of Watmough et al.

With respect to Claim 21, Anderson et al. teaches a method of ultrasound treatment of a tissue by heating the tissue. The lightweight tray of Anderson et al. holds an array of transducer/lens elements to be positioned adjacent to the tissue of a patient. The transducers are actuated to provide focused ultrasound energy at a predetermined distance from the active surface, as shown in Figure 2 of Anderson et al. The step of providing ultrasound treatment via the entire tray of transducer/lens elements of Anderson et al. satisfies Applicant's limitation to selecting and actuating one or more ultrasound emitting elements.

With respect to Claims 22 and 23, although Anderson et al. does not explicitly recite the step of providing an electric current to actuate the transducer elements, it is inherent or in the alternative obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the step of an electric signal to actuate the elements, thereby emitting ultrasound, because this step is necessary for the method to be performed. The treatment cannot be performed without the necessary electric signal. Furthermore, with respect to Claims 24-26, Anderson et al. does not explicitly recite the desired dimensions or pattern of the tissue to be

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heat-treated. However, in the same field of endeavor, Watmough et al. expressly teaches an ultrasound system having a plurality of individually controlled concave or convex transducers each which may have distinct foci, where the foci may be continuous or discontinuous (col. 1, lines 61-68, col. 2, lines 1-8, col. 3, lines 45-53, col. 5, lines 37-51 and col. 7, lines 4-13). As discussed above, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used the multi-foci apparatus of Watmough et al. in a hand-held ultrasound device of Anderson et al.

In addition, although the term “ablation” of tissue is not present in the Anderson et al. reference, the teaching to “heat the target” includes or makes obvious ablation of the tissue. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to ablate the target tissue because the method of Anderson et al. does not preclude one from tissue ablation since the patent discloses ultrasound heating of the target.

Finally, the step of grasping a handle coupled to the ultrasound-emitting member is not expressly taught in the Anderson et al. reference. The step of grasping would have been inherent such that the lightweight tray of the transducer/lens assembly of Anderson et al. can be positioned adjacent to the target tissue. Or, in the alternative, the step of grasping is obvious in view of Castel. Figure 2 of Castel diagrams the step of grasping such that the handle is external to the patient. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the methods of Anderson et al. and Watmough et al. with the method of Castel because the step of grasping the handle allows for maneuverability of the lightweight tray assembly of Anderson et al.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jacqueline Cheng whose telephone number is 571-272-5596. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eleni Mantis-Mercader can be reached on 571-272-4740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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